



Veterans Home - Chippewa Falls

11.22.2021 Veterans Home Weekly Family Updates

Dear Valued Veterans Home Family Members:

After witnessing a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases in the United States this August due to highly contagious variants of the virus, we made the decision to honor our core values by requiring our team members and partners be vaccinated against COVID-19. As you may have heard, [the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) and the [Occupational Health and Safety Administration \(OSHA\)](#) published regulations recently supporting our intent to mandate vaccination for everyone who works at the Veterans Home.

Per our COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Policy and in alignment with federal regulations, the following deadlines for team member vaccination have been established (with reasonable accommodations made only for those exempt due to closely held religious beliefs or documented medical reasons):

- **December 6, 2021:** Unvaccinated team members (not exempt due to religious or medical reasons) must receive the first dose (of a two-dose vaccine), a one-dose vaccine, or an approved religious or medical exemption prior to this date.
- **January 4, 2022:** Unvaccinated team members (not exempt due to religious or medical reasons) must receive the second dose (of a two-dose vaccine) or one-dose vaccine before January 4, 2022.

Although our COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Policy does not require individuals to obtain their booster shot, we do strongly encourage everyone eligible to do so. COVID-19 vaccine booster shots continue to be highly effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death due to the virus.

Unvaccinated team members who are not deemed exempt from our COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Policy will be placed on unpaid leave beginning December 6, 2021. Following this date, we will continue to support unvaccinated team members with every available resource and local opportunity to get vaccinated and return to work. In the event a team member does not become vaccinated or receive an approved exemption from vaccination before January 4, 2022, their employment with the Veterans Home will be terminated.

Please know it is my sincere hope and intention to preserve the integrity of our wonderful team. By becoming fully vaccinated, we are ensuring you and your loved ones benefit from quality, safe care while giving our team the resources needed to succeed each day.

Finally, I wanted to be sure you are aware that CMS has revised its guidelines regarding visitation. While we are now permitting all visitors to enter the building— even in the event we have an outbreak— we do ask that you understand there are risks associated in visiting while there are active COVID-19 cases within the care community. It is our priority to do everything we can to keep you and your loved ones healthy this holiday season and beyond.

Upon entry, visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms. Please help us protect the health and wellness of our members by suspending your visit if you feel ill, have any symptoms of the virus, or actively have COVID-19. Also, we ask that you continue to wear face masks and practice physical distancing as appropriate. During your visits, please limit your movement throughout our community to your loved ones' rooms. Please contact me if you have any questions.

I encourage you and your loved ones to contact me or Katie Plendl at 715-720-6775 at any time if you need assistance in getting vaccinated, finding a booster shot, have questions, or would like more information. Thank you for your continued confidence in our team and the support and kindness you show us. Everyone at Veterans Home is privileged to serve you each day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan M. Corcoran', written in a cursive style.

Megan M. Corcoran, NHA | Administrator
Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls